

weather report



51°
 noon
 Monday

Today

- Sunset, 5:57 p.m.
- Sunrise, 7:06 a.m.
- Sunset, 5:56 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 44 degrees
- Humidity 34 percent
- Sky clear
- Winds northwest 15-25 mph
- Barometer 30.41 inches and rising
- Record High today 88° (2003)
- Record Low today 8° (1917)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday	48°
Low Sunday	34°
Precipitation	none
This month	00.63
Year to date	13.89
Below Normal	4.31 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 67, winds breezy out of the north 15-35 mph and a low around 42. Wednesday: Mostly sunny with a high near 71, winds north 10-15 mph and a low around 37.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Sunny with a high near 74 and a low around 34. Friday: Mostly sunny with a high near 59 and a low around 36. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Power line agreement not ready

By Ramona C. Sanders

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Although officials at ReNewable Energy Resources said earlier this month they intend to connect their wind power plant using the power lines planned to serve Goodland Energy Center, apparently no agreement exists for that connection.

"There's been no negotiations or discussions for them being connected to our power lines," said energy center chief financial officer Doug Sederstrom.

ReNewable managing partner Mark Justus said that completion of the company's intended wind farm depends on Goodland Energy Center's power lines, which he said should be done sometime in late December or early January.

However, Sederstrom said construction has

not begun on the power lines.

"I'm not sure of the completion date," Sederstrom said Monday. "I'm going to guess that within the next two to four weeks, construction will be started, the poles will go into the ground."

Sederstrom said he does not know if the center will allow the wind plant to use its lines.

"It depends on how it will affect our power lines," he said.

The center plans a 6 1/2-mile long overhead power line connecting the plant, on a 300-acre site west of Goodland, to the city of Goodland's power substation, Sederstrom said.

The line will follow the Kyle Railroad to K-27, he said, but the company is still working on the route into town.

Sederstrom said the railroad gave Good-

land Energy an easement but the company is still seeking permission for building on the route from K-27 to the city's substation, east of Cherry Avenue.

Sederstrom said the lines will be built before construction of the coal-fired power plant is complete.

"The power plant is in the middle of construction," Sederstrom said. "I wouldn't say it's in its last stages, but it is in its middle stages."

Goodland Energy Center includes Goodland Energy Resources, a coal-fired power plant, ReNewable Energy Resources, a wind-generated power plant, E-Caruso, an ethanol plant, and Kanza Energy, a biodiesel production plant. The biodiesel plant has been put on hold, Sederstrom said last year.

The private Goodland-based companies

broke ground on the entire project in May 2006. Sederstrom said construction of the power plant and the power line is expected to cost \$20 million to \$25 million.

The energy center has a letter of intent with the city to provide electricity to residents, said City Manger Wayne Hill.

Sederstrom said that a contract between the city and the city had been canceled because of construction delays.

"There was a contract with the city initially," Sederstrom said. "In all reality, it was more aggressive that what we could meet construction-wise. So at that point in time, we met with the city and instead of doing a contract — because we're not sure when we're going to be up and running — we have a letter of intent."



Water from a fire truck doused flames of a grass fire near St. Francis Thursday that destroyed almost 300 acres. Firefighters from Cheyenne County, Sherman County, Bird City and Hale, Colo. responded to the fire. Photo by Ramona C. Sanders/The Goodland Star-News

Residents can help health care

By Ramona C. Sanders

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By completing a three-minute survey, Sherman County residents can help improve health care here.

The Shine On Sherman County health care committee is distributing surveys to get people's ideas on the condition of area health care. The survey asks for information on medical, dental, vision and mental health services.

"We're not doing this because we think we have problems in health care," said committee member Koren Dechant. "We want to make the asset we have the best it can possibly be."

Dechant said the survey poses questions such as: "Where do people doctor? Why do they doctor? What are the reasons they choose to doctor there? What is that decision driven by?"

The 10-member committee hopes that the information will help both residents and health care providers, she said.

One of the common responses is lack of transportation to a doctor's office, for instance, the committee could work with physicians and Goodland Regional Medical Center to help provide rides or information on available help.

"If we find out some of the major issues are a certain type of insurance (that) isn't accepted or that they have to travel out of town to get services, how can we remedy that?"

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local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$8 bushel
- Posted county price — \$7.90
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Corn — \$3.24 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.34
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Milo — \$3.08 bushel
- Soybeans — \$8.25 bushel
- Posted county price — \$8.61
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Millet — \$7 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$17.90 cwt.
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
- Pinto beans — \$25 (new crop)
- (Markets by Scoular Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

Rural firemen help stop grass fire

By Karen Krien

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The Sherman County Fire Department was among several area fire departments that responded to a grass fire north of St. Francis around 1 p.m. (Mountain Time) Thursday that swept through almost 300 acres, jumping several country roads, two asphalt roads and the railroad tracks before it was stopped.

One fireman was injured as a result of a fall. There was no structural damage and no animals were lost. Several animals had to be let out by firemen and volunteers so they could seek safety.

The fire swiftly traveled down a wide ravine, east of the city sewer ponds, and on east of the St. Francis Cemetery. The wind was from the north/northwest but it seemed to shift from

time to time.

St. Francis Fire Chief George Harper said that Sherman County firemen were able to put out the fire before it could spread further.

Harper said the fire was "electrical" and, at the time, was unsure if a line had broke in the wind or if wires had touched, causing a spark. Wind gusts on Thursday reached 60-mile-an-hour at some points.

"It has been dry and, with the wind and low humidity levels, the fire traveled fast," Harper said.

The Sherman County Firemen were stationed on U.S. 36. From a distance, the black and sometimes green smoke billowed into the sky between Wheeler Road and U.S. 36, which had been blocked to keep traffic out.

Harper said the support during the fire was

tremendous. Fire departments came from Hale, Colo., and Bird City to fight the fire and there were other departments standing by.

Anyone having big trucks to haul water arrived; the county, Goodland Greenline and farmers supplied equipment and manpower to plow up ground for a fire line. Local law enforcement, state troopers and emergency medical technicians were also there to lend a hand.

"Since the fire, we have had phone calls and people thanking us for being there," Harper said. "It's a good feeling."

Although the fire appeared to be out, the area was patrolled much of the night. Law officers reported a hot spot on a railroad bridge about 3 a.m. on Friday and Chief Harper went out to extinguish it.

City juggles street project list

By Tom Betz

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The city commission decided to juggle the street improvement projects to allow them to add the piece of Enterprise road and a couple of other streets in major need of upgrading.

The list of street projects are those to be fixed with the special bond money the city authorized in August and the \$2.4 million in bonds were sold in September.

The city commission reviewed the list to make some changes and to see what needs to be done to add the section of Enterprise road that currently belongs to Service Oil.

City Manger Wayne Hill said city attorney Jeff Mason and engineer Darin Neufeld of Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, were playing tag on getting the details prepared on the dedication of the land to the city to be a new street.

Neufeld said that he and Mason had been talking about what needs to be done, and that the first piece is the dedication of the street to the city. He said it will take two separate actions with the one being from Service Oil and the other from the owner of the Comfort Inn.

Former Mayor Wade Barnett asked to speak on the Service Oil issue.

"I am sure you are getting tired of seeing me up here," he said. "I am asking for the last time that you not sign the contract going in with Service Oil to do the work on Enterprise Road."

"I suggest you do nothing. You are not obligated to do anything about that street.

We fixed those 20 years ago. Service Oil informed us they would do what they see fit. That is not our problem.

"If you agree to a contract to fix that street you are going to spend taxpayers money that is totally unwarranted."

Mayor Rick Billinger said that Service Oil should have dedicated the road to the city 20 years ago.

"It is not necessary for the city to have a street there," Barnett said. "You are going to saddle the taxpayers with half the cost."

Billinger said he understood Barnett's opinion, but felt it was better to go ahead with the project and thanked Barnett for coming. City Commissioner Dave Daniels asked what the city would have to do to get the project moving.

Hill said the first step is the dedication. Neufeld said once the city accepts the dedication of the street it is official.

City Commissioner John Garcia asked how does the city get Service Oil's guarantee they are going to help pay for half the cost.

Hill said Mason told him that would be part of the dedication, and it will be in writing.

Neufeld said he and Mason were working on the language, and are putting things in the agreement to benefit both parties.

"We are putting the legals together because they do not match," Neufeld said, "and we want to do it right so we don't have to come back again later."

"I am not sure I am ready to pay for fixing the road," Daniels said. "I don't see any benefit from the taxpayer for fixing the road.

Otherwise we are dumping money into the road to help a private business.

"I want there to be more than a warm fuzzy for people coming off the interstate."

"I think we are giving the taxpayers a street that is not there now," Billinger said. "Not just for the people who come off the interstate. It is for the people who live here. I believe it is worth it to the city. I think there are a lot of people who use that street."

"At what point does it stop?" Daniels asked.

"That is my concern," City Commissioner Josh Dechant said.

Billinger said it is no different than some of the streets being put on the list to be improved such as the east section of 19th Street to the bus barn.

Garcia said he had some questions about how much Service Oil would pay, and that the engineering costs were not included.

"Who is going to do the work. Mike Miller," Garcia asked.

"I think that is a reasonable question," Billinger said.

Neufeld said it would be up to the city commission to determine who will do the project. He said the dedication won't be ready for at least a month, and that the project may have to wait until early next year.

"I think that will work," Dechant said. "If Miller is willing to do that," Garcia said.

Garcia said it would be about \$121,000

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inside today



More local news, views from your Goodland Star-News

Get ready for annual spooks night

Goodland's sixth annual Moonlight Madness celebration and costume contest will bring out spooks and goblins from 5-7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 30, for a night of spirited shopping, entertainment and costume contests.

Several downtown stores will be open until 7 p.m., with specials for shopping, and there will be treats for the kids who stop by. The basement of El Dorado Western Wear, 1101 Main, will be the site of the costume contest.

The Madd Hatter will provide music beginning about 5 p.m. and costume judging begins at 5 p.m.

There will be three age groups, with cash prizes for first, second and third in each. The 4-and-under group will be judged at 5 p.m., 5 to 8 at 5:30 p.m., and 9 to 12 at 6 p.m.. The Goodland Kiwanis Club has donated the prize money, and Wal-Mart has provided money for candy for all those who participate.

Businesses participating in the event or handing out candy include Jacque's Hallmark, SmitteO's Video, State Farm Insurance, J.C. Penney, Farm Bureau Insurance, Mr. Jim's His and Hers Shop and *The Goodland Star-News*.

Cowboys defeat Eagles

Cowboys running back Casey Henderson plowed his way up the middle for the first touchdown against the Hugoton Eagles on Friday, as the Cowboys won 38-14. See story, photos on Page 10.

